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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Previously presented) A recording apparatus for recording a received signal as digital data in a file format, comprising:

a buffer memory for temporarily storing the received signal as digital data;

a storage unit for storing the digital data in the file format;

a memory controller for performing a control causing the digital data temporarily stored in said buffer memory to be stored in said storage unit in the file format; and

a manual input device for inputting a division command for dividing the digital data at an arbitrary instant in order to store the digital data in said storage unit as files divided one from another, while said buffer memory receives the signal continuously; wherein

said memory controller carries out the control in such a manner that the digital data continuously stored in said buffer memory is stored in said storage unit at a writing speed which is higher than a speed at which the digital data is stored in said buffer memory, to thereby allow the digital data continuously stored in said buffer memory to be stored as said files divided at the arbitrary instant corresponding to the division command from said manual input device.

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2. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus according to claim 1, further~~[further~~ comprising:

a division managing device for generating a division timing signal for dividing the digital data at an arbitrary instant in order to store the digital data in said storage unit as said files divided one from another;

wherein said memory controller carries out the control in such a manner that the digital data continuously stored in said buffer memory is stored in said storage unit at a writing speed which is higher than a speed at which the digital data is stored in said buffer memory, to thereby allow the digital data continuously stored in said buffer memory to be stored as said files divided at the arbitrary instant corresponding to the division timing signal from said division managing device.

3. (Previously presented) A recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said division managing device generates said division timing signal at a predetermined time interval or at each of preset time instants.

4. (Previously presented) A recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said division managing device generates said division timing signal when a predetermined change in environmental condition has occurred or when a predetermined signal is received from the outside.

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5. (Previously presented) A recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said division managing device comprises an artificial intelligence fuzzy-judgment device which generates said division timing signal based on an automatic judgment.

6. (Previously presented) A recording apparatus according to any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein said memory controller performs the control of dividing the digital data in response to the division command from said manual input means or the division timing signal from said division managing device.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) A recording/reproducing apparatus for recording a received signal as digital data in a file format and for reproducing the digital data stored in a file format comprising:

a storage unit for storing the digital data in the file format;

a buffer memory for temporarily storing the received signal in a recording mode and for temporarily storing the digital data read from said storage unit in a reproducing mode;

a manual input device for inputting a division command for dividing the digital data at an arbitrary instant in the recording mode in order to store the digital

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data in said storage means as files divided one from another, while said buffer memory receives the signal continuously; and

a memory controller for performing a first control causing the digital data temporarily stored in said buffer memory to be stored in said storage unit in the file format in the recording mode and for performing a second control to cause the digital data stored in said storage unit to be temporarily stored in said buffer memory in order to allow the digital data to be outputted in the reproducing mode; wherein

said memory controller carries out the first control in the recording mode in such a manner that the digital data continuously received and stored in said buffer memory is stored in said storage at a writing speed which is higher than a speed at which the digital data is stored in said buffer memory, to thereby allow the digital data continuously stored in said buffer memory to be stored as said files divided at the arbitrary instant corresponding to the division command from said manual input device, and said memory controller further carrying out the second control in the reproducing mode in such a manner that the digital data is read from said storage means at a reading speed which is higher than a speed at which the digital data is outputted from said buffer memory to thereby allow the files of digital data dividedly stored in said storage unit to be outputted as continuous digital data.

9. (Currently amended) A recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

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a division managing device for generating a division timing signal for dividing the digital data at an arbitrary instant in order to store the digital data in said storage means as files divided one from another; ~~and~~ and

wherein said memory controller carries out the first control in the recording mode in such a manner that the digital data continuously received and stored in said buffer memory is stored in said storage unit at a writing speed which is higher than a speed at which the digital data is stored in said buffer memory, to thereby allow the digital data continuously stored in said buffer memory to be stored as said files divided at the arbitrary instant corresponding to the division timing signal from said division managing device, and said control means further carrying out the second control in the reproducing mode in such a manner that the digital data is read from said storage unit at a reading speed which is higher than a speed at which the digital data is outputted from said buffer memory to thereby allow the files of digital data dividedly stored in said storage means to be outputted as continuous digital data.

10. (Previously presented) A recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said division managing device generates said division timing signal at a predetermined time interval or at each of preset time instants.

11. (Previously presented) A recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said division managing device generates said division timing

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signal when a predetermined change in environmental condition has occurred or when a predetermined signal is received from the outside.

12. (Previously presented) A recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said division managing device comprises an artificial intelligence fuzzy-judgment device which generates said division timing signal based on an automatic judgment.

13. (Previously presented) A recording/reproducing apparatus according to any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein said memory controller performs the control of dividing the digital data in response to the division command from said manual input device or the division timing signal from said division managing device.

14. (Previously presented) A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the files from a continuous signal are stored in a single directory in said storage unit.

15. (Previously presented) A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the files from a continuous signal are stored in said storage unit with sequential numbers, respectively.

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16. (Previously presented) A recording apparatus for recording a received signal as digital data in a file format, comprising:

a buffer memory for temporarily storing the received signal as digital data;

a storage unit for storing the digital data in the file format;

a memory controller for performing a control causing the digital data temporarily stored in said buffer memory to be stored in said storage unit in the file format; and

a manual input device for inputting a division command for dividing the digital data at an arbitrary instant in order to store the digital data in said storage unit as files divided one from another, while said buffer memory receives the signal continuously; wherein

said memory controller carries out the control in such a manner that the digital data continuously stored in said buffer memory is stored as files divided at the arbitrary instant corresponding to the division command from said manual input device.